

Appl. No. 09/641,820
Amdt. dated October 28, 2003
Reply to Interview of October 20, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

B1
1. (currently amended) An internet enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having an internet web portal through which ~~an~~ a third party authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services for use by another may access for bi-directional communication and functional interaction, a rental vehicle services provider using a digital data entry device connected to the internet, a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system remote from said third party authorized purchaser, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said third party authorized purchaser and communicate a plurality of rental vehicle reservations through said rental vehicle software program to a second software program for fulfillment at a specific geographically remote rental vehicle location at which vehicles for rent are situated, said rental vehicle reservation software program collecting data relating to said plurality of reservations into a database accessible by said third party authorized purchaser having sufficient information and being further configured for managing of said reservations by said third party authorized purchaser including automatically generating action item lists identifying those reservations needing further action by said third party authorized purchaser for completion as well as authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transactions by said rental vehicle software program to said third party authorized purchaser so that a said plurality of rental vehicle transaction reservations may be automatically processed thereby.

2. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 1 wherein said third party authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers each being enabled to access said internet web portal from any location offering internet web access, and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the computer system and rental vehicle software program resident therein, ~~and wherein said~~

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~~second business organization includes a plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.~~

3. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 2 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said third party authorized purchaser and communicated to said third party authorized purchaser for authorization.

4. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 3 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said internet web portal.

5. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 4 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation including extending a time period for which said reservation authorizes use of a rental vehicle.

6. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 4 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said rental vehicle software program including reports summarizing rental vehicle reservation activity conducted any one of said authorized purchasers.

7. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 6 wherein said rental vehicle software program further comprises a data base, said data base storing rental vehicle reservation activity for access by said authorized purchasers.

8. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 7 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to said third party authorized purchaser for further processing.

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9. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 8 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to communicate messages between each of said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said rental vehicle software program.

10. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 9 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured for allowing access through its internet web portal to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to any one of said plurality of service providers.

11. (original) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 10 wherein said plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

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12. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 1 further comprising a second computer system, said second computer system having the second computer software program resident thereon, said second computer software program being configured to process rental vehicle transactions at a plurality of geographically diverse branch facilities each of which has a plurality of vehicles for rental, said second computer system being linked to said first computer system whereat said rental vehicle software program is resident.

13. (original) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 12 wherein each of said first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN.

14. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 13 wherein said third party authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of individual authorized purchasers, said plurality of individual authorized purchasers being enabled to access said internet web portal from any location offering internet web access, and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the second computer system resident therein, and

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wherein said second business organization includes the plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.

15. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 14 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said third party authorized purchaser and communicated to said third party authorized purchaser for authorization.

16. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 15 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said internet web portal.

17. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 16 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation including extending a time period for which said reservation authorizes use of a rental vehicle.

18. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 16 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said rental vehicle software program.

19. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 18 wherein said rental vehicle software program further comprises a data base, said data base storing rental vehicle reservation activity for access by said authorized purchasers.

20. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 19 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to said authorized purchaser for further processing.

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21. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 20 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to communicate messages between said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said rental vehicle software program.

22. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 21 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured for allowing access through its internet web portal to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to any one of said plurality of service providers.

23. (original) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 22 wherein said plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

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34. (canceled)

24 35. (currently amended) A computer software program to provide an internet portal access by a third party multi-level business organization to a service provider's integrated business, said access being sufficient for placing, and monitoring, and managing orders for delivery of services to said third party multi-level business organization's unrelated user-customers by said integrated business, said integrated business including a computer system having a business software program configured to automatically accept reservations for, and provide interactive management of said orders including collecting data relating to said reservations into a database accessible by (said third party authorized purchaser) and 2 ~ A. automatically generating action item lists for use by said third party multi-level business organization relating to actions needed to complete the delivery of services to their unrelated user-customers as well as administrative control and accounting for, services offered and physically available at a plurality of geographically diverse locations.

25 36. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 24 wherein said internet portal software program is configured to provide said access to said business software program for a range of functional interactions therewith including sending messages.

26 37. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 25 wherein said internet portal computer software program is configured to provide access to an authorized purchaser employee of said third party multi-level business organization for ordering of said service provider's services, said authorized purchaser comprising a multi-level business organization requiring interaction at a plurality of levels of said business software program.

26 38. (original) The computer program of claim 27 wherein said service provider is itself a multi-level business organization, said business software program providing communication of business information needed to effectively execute reservations placed for delivery of its services, and wherein said internet portal software program is configured to provide interaction between different levels of both of said business organizations.

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39. (original) The computer program of claim ²⁷28 wherein said internet portal software program is further configured to provide controlled access to said business software program by third party service providers.

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40. (original) The computer program of claim ²⁷38 wherein said internet portal software is resident on a first computer system and said business software program is resident on a second computer system, and wherein each of said first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN.

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41. (currently amended) A method for providing an internet portal through which ~~an~~ a third party authorized purchaser comprising a multi-level business organization ~~of rental vehicle services~~ may access over the Internet a rental vehicle software program resident on a rental vehicle provider's business computer system for transacting a plurality of reservations for rental vehicle services, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an internet portal computer system having a software program configured to create internet access thereto; and

establishing a link between said two computer systems; said internet portal software program being further configured to ~~facilitate provide~~ functional interaction between the software program resident on said rental vehicle provider's business computer system and an authorized purchaser ~~agent of said multi-level business organization~~ logged onto said internet portal software program for placing a plurality of reservations for rental vehicle services to be provided to its customer-users, and

providing the ability to manage said plurality of reservations by said authorized purchaser-agents including configuring the rental vehicle software program to collect data relating to said plurality of reservations into a database accessible by said third party authorized purchaser and to automatically generate action item lists for said authorized purchaser-agents, said action item lists detailing further actions needed to be accomplished to complete his associated corresponding reservations.

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~~42~~ (original) The method of claim ³⁰~~41~~ wherein each of said computer systems further comprises a main frame computer, and wherein the step of establishing a link includes the step of establishing a link between said two main frame computers.

43. (canceled)

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)

46. (canceled)

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³²
~~47~~ (new) A method for managing a plurality of rental vehicle reservations placed by a third party authorized purchaser with a rental vehicle services provider over the internet, said reservations being for rental vehicle services provided to said third party authorized purchaser's customer-users, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting, by said third party authorized purchaser, over the internet to a computer system of the rental vehicle services provider through a web portal,

placing said plurality of rental vehicle reservations by accessing a rental vehicle software program on said computer system and entering appropriate data relating to each of said reservations,

collecting said data relating to said plurality of reservations into a database accessible by said third party authorized purchaser, and

managing said reservations by, in part, responding to an automatically generated action item list using data from said database and identifying those reservations needing further input from said third party authorized purchaser in order to complete said reservations.

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~~48~~ (new) The method of claim ³²~~47~~ further comprising the step of said rental vehicle software program automatically communicating the reservations to another computer system and a fulfillment software program resident on said another computer system for further processing and fulfillment of said reservations.

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49. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein said third party authorized purchaser comprises a multi-level business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, each of whom has the authority for placing and managing a workload of assigned reservations, and wherein the step of managing said reservations includes automatically generating for each of said authorized purchasers his own action item list relating solely to his workload of assigned reservations.

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50. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein both of said computer systems are located at the rental vehicle services provider, and further comprising the step of linking said computer systems for direct communication therebetween

51. (new) A method for managing a plurality of rental vehicle reservations placed over the internet by a plurality of adjusters employed by an insurance company with a rental vehicle services provider, said reservations being for rental vehicle services for provision to said insurance company's insureds for use of a vehicle while their vehicle is incapacitated, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting, by said adjusters, over the internet to a computer system of the rental vehicle services provider through a web portal,
placing a plurality of rental vehicle reservations by at least one of said adjusters by accessing a rental vehicle software program on said computer system and entering appropriate data relating to each of said reservations,
collecting data relating to said plurality of reservations into a database accessible by said plurality of adjuster,
automatically generating an action item list for each of said adjusters having placed a plurality of reservations, said action item list identifying those reservations needing further action for completion, and
managing said reservations by each adjuster having placed a plurality of reservations by, in part, responding to his associated automatically generated action item list.

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52. (new) The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of automatically communicating each reservation placed with said rental vehicle software to a fulfillment software for execution of said reservation.

53. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the step of managing includes providing a communication channel between each adjuster and the rental vehicle service provider wherein each communication dispatched over said communication channel is associated with its corresponding reservation to thereby create an associated record of all such communications over the life of each reservation.